

CLAIMS

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- Sub B1
1. A physiologically acceptable formulation for application to a body as a foam, said formulation comprising a foamable gelling agent and a slow² release precipitant therefor, wherein said slow² release precipitant is combined with said gelling agent during the foaming thereof and stabilises the foamed form of the gelling agent.
2. A formulation as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said gelling agent prior to foaming.
- Sub A2
3. A formulation as claimed in either one of Claims 1 and 2 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a gum, or salts or derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
4. A formulation as claimed in Claim 3 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethyl-cellulose, carageenan gel, the derivatives or salts thereof, or mixtures thereof.
- Sub A3
5. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.
6. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein said precipitant is a salt of calcium, zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates; glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates

- Sub B3
7. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 6 further containing a foaming agent.
8. A formulation as claimed in Claim 7 wherein said foaming agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, a surfactant or the like.
- Sub B4
9. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the gelling agent comprises an alginate gel, a carageenan gel or a carboxymethylcellulose gel and wherein the precipitant is a calcium salt.
10. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the gelling agent comprises carboxymethylcellulose gel and wherein the precipitant is an aluminium salt.
11. A formulation as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 10 further comprising an organic acid in an amount of 0.5 g to 5.0 g per 100 g gelling agent.
12. A physiologically acceptable foam comprising a foamed gelling agent stabilised by a precipitant.
13. The foam as claimed in Claim 12 in the form of a cured foam sheet.
14. A foam as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said precipitant is packaged separately to said gelling agent prior to foaming.
- Sub B5
15. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 14 wherein said gelling agent is alginate, carboxymethylcellulose, collagen, a polysaccharide, agar, a polyethylene oxide, a glycol methacrylate, gelatin, a gum, or salts or

- 1 derivatives of any of these, or mixtures thereof.
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3 16. A foam as claimed in Claim 15 wherein said gelling
4 agent is alginate, carboxymethyl-cellulose,
5 carageenan gel, the derivatives or salts thereof,
6 or mixtures thereof.
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8 17. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 16,
9 wherein said gelling agent has a molecular weight
10 of from 10,000 to 200,000 kDa.
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12 18. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 17,
13 wherein said precipitant is a salt of calcium,
14 zinc, copper, silver or aluminium; borates;
15 glyoxal; or amino-formaldehyde pre-condensates
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17 19. A foam as claimed in any one of Claims 12 to 18
18 further containing a foaming agent.
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20 20. A foam as claimed in Claim 19 wherein said foaming
21 agent is cetrimide, lecithin, a soap, silicone, a
22 surfactant or the like.
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24 21. A process of sterilising a foam for medical or
25 veterinary use, said process comprising:
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27 a) foaming a formulation of Claims 1 to 11 and
28 allowing said foamed formulation to cure;
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30 b) treating said foam with precipitant;
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32 c) optionally washing said treated foam;
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34 d) drying said treated form; and
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e) sterilising said dried foam by exposure to γ -
irradiation or ethylene oxide.

22. The process of Claim 21 wherein said treated foam
is washed in a de-ionised water/glycerine mixture
prior to drying.

23. The process of either one of Claims 21 and 22
wherein the treated foam is oven dried at
temperatures below 100°C.

24. The process of any one of Claims 21 to 23 wherein
the foam is immersed in a bath of calcium chloride
or calcium citrate solution as precipitant.

Add
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